

## 1. Events of 2011

The week's lesson looks back at some news stories from the year that just ended, 2011.

### Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2–B1 and above)

### How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students what the biggest news stories of 2011 were, both in their country and around the world. You could divide the news stories into categories: politics, economics, natural disasters, sports, celebrities, etc. Before handing out Worksheet A, you could potentially elicit some of the specific vocabulary in the lesson by asking the students what news stories in 2011 were connected with Japan, the Arab countries, soccer, the theme of population, etc.
2. Hand out Worksheet A, divide the students into pairs, and give them at least five minutes to put the mixed-up pieces of information back together again.
3. When the time is up, check answers in open class and ask students to read their sentences aloud.
4. Ask the students to turn over their copies of Worksheet A or to hand them back to you temporarily. Hand out Worksheet B and, keeping the students in their pairs, allow them as much time as they need to fill in the blanks in the sentences.
5. Check answers in open class.
6. Hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to complete the crossword. (The “most popular” movie of 2011 means the one that made the most money at theater box offices worldwide.)

## 2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011>

From the Simple English Wikipedia, a chronological list of news stories in 2011. Challenging for Pre-intermediate level.

[http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011\\_deaths](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_deaths)

Also from the Simple English Wikipedia, a comprehensive list of famous people who died in 2011. Accessible to Pre-intermediate level.

[http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,2101344\\_2101369,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,2101344_2101369,00.html)

From *Time* magazine online, an article on the top US news stories from 2011. Challenging for Pre-intermediate level.

**Answers:**

**Exercises 1 and 2** (missing words from Exercise 2 in **bold**)

1. In March, there was a very strong earthquake under the ocean near the coast of Japan, followed by a **terrible** tsunami that killed around 20,000 people and also **damaged** the Fukushima nuclear reactor, leading to a serious radiation **leak**.
2. In North Africa and the Middle East, there were **protests** against the governments of many **Arab** countries. The countries in which there was a change of government included Tunisia, Egypt, and, after months of **fighting**, Libya.
3. The world population is **growing** very quickly and reached seven billion in **late** October. It was only fairly **recently**, in 1999, that it reached six billion. One hundred years ago, in 1911, the world population was less than two billion.
4. In April, there was a **royal** wedding in London when Prince William (the son of **Princess** Diana, who died in 1997) got **married** to Kate Middleton.
5. Barcelona's soccer team, FC Barça, **won** the Spanish **championship**, the Champions League (beating Manchester United in the final), and the World **Club** Championship (beating Santos in the final).
6. Among the famous people who died in 2011 were Steve Jobs, a **co-founder** of Apple, who was 56 years old; the **actress** Elizabeth Taylor (79); and the **singer** Amy Winehouse (27).
7. There has been a financial **crisis** for the countries of the European Union. The most **serious** situation is in Greece, where the government has a huge **debt**.
8. In **pop** music, the **artist** with the **best-selling** album on iTunes<sup>®</sup> was Adele, a 23-year-old singer from London. The album is called *21*.

**Exercise 3**

1. mother 2. Africa 3. reached 4. singer 5. Libya  
6. Spain 7. founded 8. lost 9. earthquake 10. Greece 11. grew

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *Harry Potter* will read from top to bottom.